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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/789,267

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Kurt Businger

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Andrew L. Reibman, Esq.
KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004

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EXAMINER

CHEUNG, VICTOR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/789,267

Applicant(s)

BUSINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Victor Cheung

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's response has been received 4/23/2007.

Claims 1, and 3-17 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: "a latch" in line 13 should be "the latch".

Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 6 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 6, dependent on claim 5, recites that "the door handle assembly is configured to transfer force from the handle to the latch in order to move the latch." However, claim 5 has been amended to already include "a latch operably connected to the handle... configured so that force applied to the handle may be transferred via the cam shaft and cam follower to life the latch."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the

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subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nigro, Jr. et al (US Patent No. 5,658,026, hereinafter "Nigro") in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA").

Re Claim 1: Nigro discloses a door handle assembly comprising a support plate having a front side and a back side, wherein an aperture is disposed in the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 10; Col. 1, Lines 34-43), a handle pivotably arranged on the front side of the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 30; Col. 1, Lines 34-43), wherein a cam shaft configured to be arranged in the aperture depends from the handle (Fig. 2, Reference Nos. 20 and 35), a cam follower disposed on the back side of the support plate, coupled to the cam shaft (Fig. 3, Reference No. 60; Col. 2, Lines 15-19), and a latch operably connected to the handle via the cam shaft and cam follower, configured to transfer force from the handle to a latch in order to move the latch (Col. 1, Lines 34-43).

However, Nigro does not specifically disclose the type of latch that is used, specifically lifting the latch.

The AAPA teaches that such rail and pin arrangements in which a latch is lifted are conventional and well known in the art (Fig. 1; Paragraphs 2 and 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a latch which is able to be lifted by force transferred through the handle, thereby providing a closing mechanism that can be easily actuated.

Re Claim 3: Nigro discloses a retaining device configured to retain the handle in a closed position (Figs. 3 and 5, Reference No. 85; Col. 1, Lines 42-43).

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nigro, Jr. et al (US Patent No. 5,658,026, hereinafter "Nigro") in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA") and Smolarski (US Patent No. 6,062,616).

Re Claim 4: Nigro et al. teach the a door handle assembly comprising a support plate having a front side and a back side, wherein an aperture is disposed in the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 10; Col. 1, Lines 34-43), a handle pivotably arranged on the front side of the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 30; Col. 1, Lines 34-43), and a cam system for transferring force from the handle to a latch in order to move the latch (Col. 3, Lines 19-25).

However, Nigro et al. do not teach a roller bearing arrangement depending from the handle, configured to transfer force form the handle to a latch in order to lift the latch.

Smolarski teaches a roller bearing assembly depending from the handle (Figs. 1-3) configured to transfer force from the handle to a latch in order to move the latch (Col. 2, Lines 1-7).

The AAPA teaches that such rail and pin arrangements in which a latch is lifted are conventional and well known in the art (Fig. 1; Paragraphs 2 and 8).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a roller bearing arrangement in the door handle. Roller bearings are commonly used for the durability, fluidity, and reduced friction in movements. It would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a latch which is able to

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be lifted by force transferred through the handle, thereby providing a closing mechanism that can be easily actuated.

7. Claims 5-9 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenwood (US Patent No. 4,813,675) in view of Nigro, Jr. et al (US Patent No. 5,658,026, hereinafter "Nigro") and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA").

Note that the claimed limitations to the door handle assembly in claims 5-7 are identical in scope to the door handle assembly limitations of claims 1 and 3, respectively, as discussed above.

Re Claims 5-7 and 14-15: Greenwood discloses a gaming terminal comprising a housing (Fig. 1) and a door movable attached to the housing (Figs. 1-2, Reference No. 34B).

However, Greenwood does not specifically disclose that the door is secured by a latch disposed in the housing and that a door handle assembly is attached to one of the door and the housing.

Nigro teaches a door handle assembly comprising a support plate, a handle, a cam shaft, a cam follower, the cam system for transferring force from the handle to a latch, and a retaining device, as discussed above.

The AAPA teaches that rail and pin arrangements in which a latch is lifted are conventional and well known in the art (Fig. 1; Paragraphs 2 and 8). The AAPA additionally teaches that door latches are conventionally included in gaming terminals (Fig. 1, Paragraphs 3 and 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the door handle assembly to the gaming terminal, allowing for controlled easy access in operating the door.

Re Claims 8 and 16: Greenwood discloses that electronic components are disposed in the housing, the electronic components accessible by opening the door (Fig. 1, Reference No. 56).

Re Claims 9 and 17: Greenwood also discloses that the gaming terminal comprises a monitor and a money receptor (Money Receptor Fig. 1, Reference No. 26; Monitor Fig 6, Reference No. 24).

8. Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenwood (US Patent No. 4,813,675) in view of Nigro, Jr. et al (US Patent No. 5,658,026, hereinafter "Nigro"), Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA"), and Smolarski (US Patent No. 6,062,616).

Re Claims 10-11: Greenwood discloses a gaming terminal comprising a housing (Fig. 1) and a door movable attached to the housing (Figs. 1-2, Reference No. 34B).

However, Greenwood does not teach a door handle assembly attached to one of the door and the housing, the door handle assembly including a support plate, a handle, and a roller bearing arrangement configured to transfer force from the handle to a door latch in the gaming terminal to lift the door latch.

Nigro, as modified by AAPA and Smolarski, teach the door handle assembly comprising a support plate, a handle, a retaining device, and a roller bearing, configured to transfer force from the handle to the latch in order to lift the latch, as discussed above in claims 3 and 4.

The AAPA also discloses that door latches are conventionally included in gaming terminals (Fig. 1, Paragraphs 3 and 8).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the door handle assembly to the gaming terminal, allowing for controlled easy access in operating the door.

Re Claim 12: Greenwood also discloses that electronic components are disposed in the housing, the electronic components accessible by opening the door (Fig. 1, Reference No. 56).

Re Claim 13: Greenwood also discloses that the gaming terminal comprises a monitor and a money receptor (Money Receptor Fig. 1, Reference No. 26; Monitor Fig 6, Reference No. 24).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The claims, as amended, have each been discussed above.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Modes (USPN 2,793,894) discloses a door latch that is able to be lifted that is used for latching doors.

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11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Cheung whose telephone number is (571) 270-1349. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 8-4:30, and every other Fri, 8-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

VC

Victor Cheung
July 12, 2007


RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

7/16/07